



## St Edward's Catholic Primary and Nursery School: Curriculum Statement

At St Edward's Catholic Primary and Nursery School, the curriculum is at the heart of our educational provision. Through this - and our commitment to an exceptional climate for learning and great pedagogy - we make focused learning the foundation of every lesson. We have designed our curriculum to meet the needs of all, striving for personal as well as academic and vocational excellence. The diocesan values and virtues are a foundation stone to the design and delivery of our curriculum. We know that the development of character doesn't happen by chance but by purpose and intention: it is therefore an explicit part of our curriculum. We therefore work hard at preparing our students to be the best version of themselves not just for today but for their futures too. Our curriculum has been designed to ensure our young people thrive, achieve and flourish. It enables them to understand what it is to be human and equips them for life so that they become kind and model citizens. Our curriculum not only develops our young people academically but socially, emotionally, culturally, physically and spiritually.

The curriculum is designed to ensure coverage and progression and to provide pupils with memorable experiences, in addition to diverse and rich opportunities from which children can learn and develop a range of transferable skills. We strive to promote a love of learning and enjoyment of the curriculum so children are inspired, have a sense of pride and develop confidence and resilience. Stimulating visits and visitors are also part of enhancing the curriculum.

### For the Early Years

We value each child as strong, capable and resilient: rich with wonder and knowledge. Every child brings with them deep innate curiosity and this drives their interest to understand their world and their place within it. We believe that every child has a fundamental right to 'realise and expand their potential'. This is a child who is driven by curiosity and imagination, a capable child who delights in taking responsibility for his or her own learning, a child who listens and is listened to, a child with an enormous need to love and to be loved, a child who is valued. Therefore, we provide a curriculum that is based on real-life experiences, involves the children and most importantly, is planned through careful assessment of their own needs and interests.

**EYFS;** The curriculum is delivered using a play-based approach as outlined by the EYFS. Children are provided with a range of rich, meaningful first-hand experiences in which they explore, think creatively and are active. We aim to develop and foster positive attitudes towards learning, confidence, communication and physical development. As a team, we use observations and assessments to offer learning experiences in all seven areas of the EYFS curriculum. We identify current interests to create an overall theme which makes the learning meaningful and purposeful. The seven areas of learning are split between prime and specific areas of learning, as follows:

### The prime areas of learning are:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

### The specific areas of learning are:

Literacy, Mathematics, understanding the world, expressive arts and design, Reading and Phonics (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)

In Reception and KS1 Phonics and Reading are taught daily. In Phonics we follow the Letters and Sounds framework where children learn to recognise letters as sounds to blend for reading and segment for spelling. In reading sessions the children develop their fluency, comprehension and enjoyment of books by reading one to one with an adult, in small guided groups and independently.

**Key Stage 1** is made up of Year 1 and Year 2. Our children are aged from 5 to 7 years old.

**Key Stage 2** is made up of Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6. Our children are aged from 7 to 11 years old.

In order to see the value in what they are learning our pupils' experiences should be firmly rooted in their day-to-day life. We want the lessons our children learn to carry with them outside of our classrooms and build the foundations of a passion for learning. In order to help us do this we want our parents to be in the know about what their children are learning each week.

We follow the National Curriculum guidelines through the Cornerstone Curriculum and also offer extra-curricular opportunities for learning. Core Subjects covered in our curriculum are:

- **English language and literacy** – speaking, listening reading and writing play an important in the learning process and are outlined in the National Curriculum and Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.
- **Speaking and listening** – we encourage learners to express themselves effectively and confidently for different purposes and audiences and to listen and respond to each other.

- **Reading** – we teach reading skills daily and provide opportunities to read in all areas of the curriculum. We employ a *systematic approach* to phonics and other word *reading* strategies and seek to engender a life-long love of reading. The school is well equipped with a variety of interactive books, audio books and pictures to encourage learners to look, listen, talk and read.
- **Writing** – learners are encouraged to write for a variety of purposes and are taught the skills needed to become confident writers.
- **Mathematics** – learners develop their numeracy, problem solving and reasoning skills through a range of practical activities and challenges.
- **Science** – learners have opportunities to explore and learn about their world. They learn to hypothesise, test their predictions and draw conclusions.
- **Information and Communication Technology** – learners are equipped with the necessary skills and confidence to successfully function in the changing world of technology.
- **Religious Education** – we believe that all learners should develop their understanding of their faith, the gospel values and virtues these are rooted from and a mutual respect for other faiths.

Whilst our knowledge-rich curriculum is designed to ensure the very best academic outcomes for our children, it is about so much more than simply securing great results. It is about our School's determination to achieve excellence: where we bring advantage to all, where barriers to learning are successfully overcome and there are no limits to the achievement and ambition of all of our young people. In our School this will mean that all children, whatever their background, starting point and life experience, develop a strong grasp of the key learning skills, attitudes and knowledge they need to make an excellent start to secondary education. This will be delivered through the crafted experiences of a stimulating, broad and balanced context-based curriculum that is not restricted to just skills and knowledge for Reading, Writing and Maths.

Every child will see themselves as a learner, often referring to themselves and their peers as 'I am a historian' or 'We are scientists'. Teachers impart on to their pupils that there are reasons behind the need to study history, geography and science. Children are able to provide rationales to specific subjects, for example: "We study geography in order to understand the importance of our interconnectivity with the rest of the world and our role as humans." Similarly, our young people understand the need to study history as it, "helps us to understand our past, our present and how we can shape our futures"

**"We carry the light of Christ as we love, live, learn and look after each other."**